

Remarks:

Status of Claims

Claims 3, 4, 7-9, 12, and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, such that claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, and 11 are currently pending.

Remarks

The present application is a divisional application of a copending U.S. patent application, Serial No. 10/103,433, hereinafter referred to as the "parent application". In the parent application, the Examiner asserted the presence of both claims to distinct inventions, requiring restriction, and claims to distinct species, requiring election.

More specifically, the Examiner asserted that claims 7-9, 12, and 13 are drawn to a boomed apparatus (combination), and claims 5, 6, 10, and 11 are drawn to an isolation mechanism (subcombination). No mention was made of claims 1 and 2 which are drawn to an isolation mechanism, or claims 3 and 4 which are drawn to a boomed apparatus. The Examiner further asserted that FIG. 4, FIG. 5, and claims 10-13 are drawn to different species.

In response, the Applicant characterized the claims as follows:

claims 1 and 2: an isolation mechanism for a boomed apparatus, the isolation mechanism being an electrically non-conductive control handle linkage (shown in FIG. 4);

claims 3 and 4: a boomed apparatus including an electrically non-conductive control handle linkage;

claims 5 and 6: an isolation mechanism for a boomed apparatus, the isolation mechanism being an electrically non-conductive boom section (shown in FIG 5);

claims 7, 8, and 9: a boomed apparatus including an electrically non-conductive boom section;

claims 10 and 11: an isolation mechanism for a boomed apparatus, the isolation mechanism being both an electrically non-conductive control handle linkage and an electrically non-conductive boom section; and

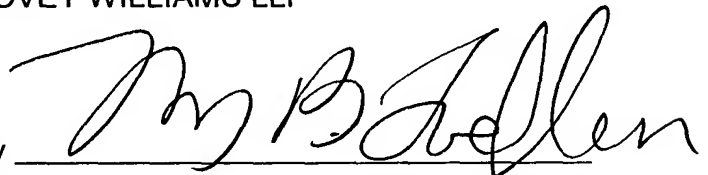
claims 12 and 13: a boomed apparatus including both an electrically non-conductive control handle linkage and an electrically non-conductive boom section.

In the parent application, the Applicant choose to pursue prosecution of those claims associated with the combination, rather than the subcombination, for which the Applicant believed the corresponding claims to be claims 3, 4, 7-9, 12, and 13. In that light, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, and 11 were canceled from the parent application without prejudice or disclaimer.

The present divisional application pursues the subcombination corresponding to claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, and 11. Claims 3, 4, 7-9, 12, and 13 are therefore canceled. Furthermore, in light of the election requirement asserted in the parent case, the Applicant elects the species shown in FIG. 4, corresponding to the electrically non-conducting control handle linkage claimed in claims 1 and 2. The second species, shown in FIG. 5, corresponds to the electrically non-conductive boom section claimed in claims 5-6. The asserted third species, of claims 10 and 11, includes both features.

In the event of any questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at 1-800-445-3460. Any additional fee which might be due in connection with this application should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully Submitted,
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